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A PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH. FINAL REPORT.

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IN RESPONSE TO THE DEMAND FOR VOCATIONALLY EDUCATED PERSONNEL AND TO THE RECOGNIZED DEFICIENCY IN THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE NONBACCALAUREATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, A PROGRAM IN TOOELE COUNTY WAS DEVISED TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF SUCH SCHOLARSHIPS. THE PILOT PROGRAM DEMONSTRATED THAT--(1) A CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE COULD BE ORGANIZED, (2) THE COMMITTEE COULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH SECURING LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS, (3) THE ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD BE APPLIED FOR AND ACCEPTED, (4) THE COMMITTEE COULD OBTAIN MORE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION THAN IT HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD, AND (5) THE COMMITTEE COULD COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE TOOELE COUNTY COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM WOULD SUSTAIN ITSELF FROM YEAR TO YEAR, AND THAT THE INAUGURATION OF SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE STATE WAS WARRANTED. AN EIGHT-STEP PROCEDURE USED TO ACHIEVE THE PROGRAMS GOALS IS INCLUDED. (ET)

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FINAL REPORT

RESEARCH PROJECT

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A PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH

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A PILOT PROGRAM

TO TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF
VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS
IN TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH

Problem

Following an over-glamourization of college and the professions, and the consequent implied discrediting of vocational and technical education and work, the number of trainees in the vocational/technical areas have not increased to the point that enough enter and become efficient to satisfy our national industrial needs.

Though our nation's needs require that at least 77 per cent of all workers engage in skilled, semi-skilled, clerical, or service trades, and only twenty-three per cent in professional or managerial work, eighty per cent of our trainees plan on entering the professions.

A State Board of Education survey recently made in Utah (and conditions in this regard are assumed to be similar throughout the United States) revealed that 65 per cent of Utah's high school graduates for the spring of 1967 reported their educational/career goals were in the area of the professions. Only 14 per cent indicated vocational/technical areas as their goals.

Within state sponsored institutions of higher learning in Utah during the 1966-1967 school year, some ninety per cent of the trainees were in professional and managerial curricula. These people received ninety-four per cent of the total scholarships given; the vocational/technical students received only six per cent of the total scholarships given.

Purpose

The purpose of this research program is to organize and provide orientation materials to a citizens' committee in Tooele District whose function it will be to secure additional non-baccalaureate scholarships for the high school students of the district. The program will also include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the effort based on the number of scholarships obtained (and their value) as compared to the average number over the last two years. In addition, the number of unfilled scholarships will be taken into consideration.

The program will test the following hypotheses:

1. A citizens' committee can be organized in Tooele District which, through contacts with local agencies, organizations and businesses, can, by May 1967,

increase the number of post-secondary vocational and technical education scholarships available to the high school seniors of the district.

2. If the number of post-secondary vocational and technical education scholarships available to the high school of Tooele District are increased, they will be applied for and accepted.

Methodology

1. As a first step, materials were prepared that would carry enough appeal and interest to sell the idea of the need for vocational training scholarships. These materials contain reasons why an educational imbalance exists between general education and vocational education, and suggestions as to how improvements can be made.

2. The second step consisted of obtaining the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the officers of various lodges, civic clubs, unions and other organizations and engaging them in conversations and discussions relative to the problem and the proposed project. The investigator spoke at board meetings and to general membership meetings held by Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, ladies clubs, unions, lodges, etc.

3. The editor of the local paper, correspondents of other papers, and the manager of the local radio station were contacted and informed as to intended plans and procedures. Copies of the materials were given them and they were invited to prepare editorial materials.

4. The proper school authorities including the District Director of Pupil Personnel and Guidance, the Vocational Counselor, and the High School Supervisor were informed and their approval was obtained as to the intended civic actions project. These school people were urged to be prepared to assist according to civic committee requests.

5. A temporary president of the civic organization, "Tooele County United Action Organization", was elected by the organization after the first meeting.

6. All civic clubs, lodges and organizations were invited to send a delegate to a central meeting for discussion of proposals and plans for formulating an United Actions Organization to accomplish some worthy objectives. The response was very good, nearly every organization sending a representative. John Stephens, Director, Utah Research Coordinating Unit, and Harvey Hirschi, Vocational Guidance Specialist from the State Department of Public Instruction, were also in attendance.

7. At a later meeting the members considered the names proposed by the election committee and voted Everett DeLaMare as the President of Tooele County United Actions Organization. Also elected were a Secretary-Treasurer and five Board Members.

8. At the third meeting of the organization, the following committees were constituted and filled:

(a) A committee to solicit scholarship contributions from clubs, lodges, unions, and other organizations.

(b) A committee to contact business houses for the same purpose.

(c) A committee to contact special prospective individuals.

(d) A public relations and publicity committee.

(e) A scholarship eligibility and sifting committee. This committee also composed a form for scholarship applicants to fill out.

Population and Sample

The population considered in this project consists of the people of all counties in Utah.

The sample, assumed to be representative of this population, is the citizens and students of Tooele County. The total size of the sample is 23,000 people, 14,000 of whom are residents of the city of Tooele.

The project operated within certain known limitations from its inception which affected the amounts of money received and the numbers of persons applying for the grants. Although they will vary in degree, the same or similar obstacles will undoubtedly have to be overcome in the future; these limitations include:

(a) Competition with other fund-gathering agencies
(b) Military draft policy
(c) Public image of vocational/technical education.

Summary and Analysis of Data

To the present time, the Principal Investigator and the Tooele County United Action Organization have accomplished the following:

(a) Secured local contributions amounting to $1,800.00, with more promised.

(b) Obtained the cooperation of the district school administration.

(c) Established criteria for selecting grant recipients and awarded six grants of $300.00 each.

(d) Developed a package of basic material which can be used in other school districts to inaugurate similar programs (Enclosure 1, attached).

(e) Showed promise of having established an organization which will sustain and regenerate itself from year to year.

(f) Worked closely with post-secondary schools.

(g) Obtained more favorable publicity for vocational and technical education than has previously been the case in the county.

The success of the project was measured by an analysis of the:

(a) Amount of money collected for grants ($1,800.00)

(b) The number of grants awarded (6 @$300.00 each)

(c) The amount of favorable publicity received by the project for vocational and technical education. (numerous newspaper articles plus favorable discussions at various organizational meetings).

(d) The impressions of participants involved in, or contacted during, the program. (All favorable).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the results accomplished, both hypotheses are accepted; a citizens' committee was successfully organized, total donations of $1,800.00 for vocational and technical post-secondary education grants were obtained, and an adequate number of students made application for the grants.

In addition, it is the opinion of the Principal Investigator that the citizens' committee will sustain itself from year to year with little outside direction required.

It is concluded that the program in Tooele County has been successful and that the inauguration of similar programs in other districts of the state is warranted.